

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049660  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
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S E C R E T STATE 049660

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 3798 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO NAIROBI  
77

QUOTE BONN 03798

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, GW, UG, US  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ELLERKMAN ON AMIN'S POSSIBLE  
MOTIVES

FOLLOWING REPORT FROMAMBASSADOR ELLERKMAN  
(FRG NUMBER 96 RECEIVED FROM FONOFF AT 1745Z MARCH 2.

BEGIN TEXT:

"RE: POSSIBLE MOTIVES FOR AMIN'S SHOWDOWN  
WITH AMERICANS AND FINAL CANCELLATION OF MEETING

1. PRESIDENT AMIN WAS HURT BADLY BY REMARKS  
OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT  
KILLINGS IN UGANDA. EVER SINCE ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 3 LAST YEAR, HE MADE ALL KINDS OF FRIENDLY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 049660

AND POSITIVE COMMENTS ON NEW ADMINISTRATION AND EVEN  
SENT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT.  
THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS HE COMMUNICATED THAT HE WISHED  
VERY MUCH THAT U.S. EMBASSY IN KAMPALA IS RE-OPENED.  
THE FIRST AND ONLY REPLY HE RECEIVED WAS CRITICISM  
ON KILLINGS IN HIS COUNTRY. HE TOOK REVENGE WITH THOSE  
HE COULD PUT HIS HAND ON: AMERICANS LIVING IN UGANDA.

2. SITUATION WAS IMMEDIATELY EXPLOITED BY PLO, WHICH HAS NOT FORGOTTEN WHAT HAD HAPPENED AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT LAST YEAR AND IS OUT FOR REVENGE. THIS IS DOCUMENTED IN MESSAGE FROM AMIN TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

3. AMIN REALLY SEEMED TO HAVE FEARED THAT AMERICANS MIGHT INVADE UGANDA. HIS REQUEST TO LIBYANS AND CUBANS TO ASSIST HIM MILITARILY THEREFORE MIGHT HAVE BEEN GENUINE.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MILITARY BUILD-UP AND NOISE HELPED HIM TO STABILIZE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. FOR MANY SHOWDOWN WITH AMERICANS WAS USED BY HIM TO DIVERT WORLD OPINION FROM WHAT WAS AND STILL IS HAPPENING IN UGANDA.

5. WHAT AMIN'S REAL PLANS WERE WHEN HE CHANGED VENUE TO ENTEBBE AIRPORT WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE KNOWN. I STILL BELIEVE THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO DO ANY PHYSICAL HARM TO ANY AMERICAN. BUT HIS ANGRY AND INSULTING REMARKS AGAINST AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE WHO INTERVENED ON BEHALF OF AMERICANS SHOW THAT THEY HAVE SPOILED SHOW FOR HIM WHICH HE WAS ANXIOUS TO CELEBRATE. I ASSUME THAT HE WAS PREPARED FOR A VERY HUMILIATING OR EVEN DIRTY AFFAIR AS HE HAS DONE WITH THE BRITISH SEVERAL TIMES. I STILL EXCLUDE ANY PLAN BEYOND THIS LIKE LOCKING UP AMERICANS AT THE OLD AIRPORT IN REVENGE FOR DEFEAT BY ISRAELI AT SAME PLACE LAST YEAR.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 049660

6. POSSIBLE MOTIVES FOR THE FINAL CANCELLATION OF MEETING ARE:

INTERVENTIONS BY MOBUTU, KING KHALID AND OTHERS.

-FEARS HE MIGHT NOT SURVIVE AMERICAN INVASION.

-REALIZATION THAT WITHOUT AMERICAN PILOTS THERE IS NO UGANDAN AIRLINE. STAYING AWAY OF BOEING 707 AND OF HIS CHIEF PILOT MIGHT ALSO HAVE PLAYED A ROLE.

-REALIZATION THAT 25 AMERICANS ARE WORKING FOR UNDP AND THAT SOME OF THEM DECLARED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR FELLOW AMERICANS.

-REALIZATION THAT APPROXIMATELY 15 TO 20 PERCENT OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA ARE BLACK AMERICANS.

-REALIZATION THAT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, WAS  
MOHAMMED'S BIRTHDAY AND THAT THE MUSLIM SUPREME COUNCIL  
ALREADY HAD INVITED TO 'MAULED' AT  
12:30 P.M. TO THE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS WITH INVITATIONS  
ALSO TO DIPLOMATS GONE OUT.

7. WHETHER THE SHOWDOWN WITH AMERICANS HAS COME  
TO AN END IS DIFFICULT TO SAY. SINCE THE MEETING  
WITH AMERICANS WAS NOT CANCELLED VOLUNTARILY, AMIN  
MIGHT REGARD CANCELLATION AS DEFEAT. THIS WOULD  
EXPLAIN HIS BITING REMARKS ABOUT MOBUTU AND OTHERS  
AND HIS NEW ATTACKS ON AMERICANS, WHEN HE SAW SPECIAL  
ENVOY FROM PRESIDENT OF RWANDA ON MARCH 1.

8. ON THE OTHER HAND I BELIEVE THAT AMIN SOON  
WILL COME TO HIS SENSES AGAIN AND FORGET THE WHOLE  
SECRET

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PAGE 04 STATE 049660

AFFAIR. WHETHER HE, AT A LATER DATE, WILL COME BACK  
TO THE AMERICANS OR THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE, WILL  
HAVE TO BE SEEN. NEW TARGET MAY BE OTHERS, PERHAPS  
THE MISSIONARIES IN GENERAL. WITH AMIN ONE NEVER KNOWS.  
THE ONLY MEASURE ONE CAN TAKE, IF ONE LIVES HERE, IS  
TO REMAIN CALM. ELLERKMANN"

END TEXT.  
CASH

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN ON AMIN'S POSSIBLE MOTIVES FOLLOWING REPORT FROMAMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CASC, PINS, GE, UG, US, (ELLERKMANN, RICHARD), (AMIN DADA, IDI)  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK  
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